



Introduction

Welcome to the official newsletter of the CSTARS Phase II Deployment effort. The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate important CSTARS Phase II information that will impact *your* work at the Department of Commerce.

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If you have any questions or comments please contact the CSTARS Obligation and Requisition Standard Interface (ORSI) Team at ORSITeam@doc.gov.

Hot Topics

ORSITeam@doc.gov: The CSTARS ORSI Team has created this email alias that so that the stakeholder community can submit questions, voice concerns, or leave feedback to the CSTARS ORSI Team. Emails sent to this account will be acknowledged within two business days and answered in a timely manner.

CSTARS Phase II Deployment Information Webpage: The CSTARS ORSI Team has created a website that will be used as a single point of reference for all CSTARS ORSI deployment information. This page can be found at <http://205.159.118.129/ORSI/CSTARS.htm>.

This website will contain information regarding:

- Project Overview
- Newsletters
- Education Materials
- Contact Names
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and their answers
- Terms Glossary

Deployment Information: The CSTARS Phase II Team is on schedule to complete all development and testing efforts by February 28th, 2005. The CSC plans to deliver CSTARS Phase II code to the bureaus on March 2nd, 2005.

The CSTARS Phase II Team is planning meetings with each stakeholder group to begin discussing deployment details. These meetings will occur during the first two weeks in December 2004.

The draft version of the CSTARS Phase II Deployment Plan will be completed on December 17th, 2004.

CIO - CSTARS Installation: CACI is planning on installing Comprizon.Request at bureau CSTARS locations sometime in January/February 2005. Stakeholders should be aware that this software will not be functional until all CSTARS Phase II (ORSI) code is delivered and installed. Specific deployment dates will be decided upon through discussions with the individual bureaus (Census, NIST, NOAA, and OS).

CIO - TIBCO System Administrators: Census, NOAA, and OCS will need to appoint a TIBCO System Administrator that will be responsible for installation and maintenance of TIBCO. Bureau managers will be contacted by CSTARS ORSI Team members regarding this subject in early December.

NOTE: NIST identified a TIBCO System Administrator during the CSTARS Phase I implementation.

CIO/Security – System Certification and Accreditation: System Certification and Accreditation documentation may need to be updated for CSTARS and CFS instances at each bureau due to the CSTARS Phase II implementation. Security officers at each location should plan to update this documentation before deploying CSTARS Phase II code into production.

Please contact the CSTARS Phase II Team at ORSITeam@doc.gov if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Upcoming Dates

- December 6 – Deployment Planning Meeting – Census (1:00 PM)
- December 8 – Deployment Planning Meeting – NOAA (9:00 AM)
- December 13 – Deployment Planning Meeting Follow-up – NOAA (1:00 PM)
- December 13 – Deployment Planning Meeting – OCS (2:30 PM)
- December 17 – Draft Deployment Plan Due to CSC Management

CSTARS Phase II Status (as of 12/03/04)

Synopsis

Development/Testing Activities: The CSTARS ORSI Team is currently developing and unit testing code for each of the three CSTARS ORSI Modules. Each module is currently being developed and tested independently of the other modules. The team plans to install all three modules at the CBS Support Center in mid-January and to begin the integration testing phase on January 21st, 2004.

Data Standardization: The team has been working with each of the bureaus to standardize finance and procurement data across the Department. The decisions made in these meetings will be communicated to stakeholders in the next couple of weeks by CSC Staff.

Deployment: The team is currently developing the CSTARS Phase II Deployment Plan. The purpose of this document is to provide recommendations to each of the four bureaus (Census, NIST, NOAA, OS) and the Office of Computer Services (OCS) regarding the best way to deploy the ORSI. The team is conducting meetings with each of the bureaus to gather information that will be contained in this document. The draft version of the Deployment Plan will be delivered to CSC Management on December 17th, 2004. The CSC will solicit comments on the plan from the bureaus in late December 2004.

Detailed Status

CSTARS Development/Testing

- The CSTARS Development Team is currently programming the Comprizon.Request and Comprizon.Buy portions of the Web Integration CSTARS module.
- The CSTARS Development Team continues to work with the TIBCO and CFS Development Teams to resolve possible integration issues.
- The Team is planning the integration testing effort that will occur at the CSC in the December/January timeframe.

TIBCO Development/Testing

- The TIBCO Development Team continued TIBCO development for the CSTARS/CFS integration piece of the CSTARS Phase II development effort.
- The Team has begun unit testing and is developing test conditions for the integration test.
- The Team continues to work with CSTARS and CFS development teams regarding possible integration issues.
- The Team worked with CACI to get changes in new XSD/additional NIST fields.

CFS Development/Testing

- The CFS Development Team continues to define business rule test cases for requisitions, obligations, and interfaced vendors.
- The Team continues to refine requisition, obligation, and vendor interface packages.
- The Team continues to develop CFS screens.
- The Team has begun unit testing for the CSTARS Phase II CFS modifications.
- The Team continues to work with the CSTARS and CFS Development Teams to resolve possible integration issues.
- The Team continues to work with CSTARS and CFS development teams regarding possible integration issues.

Deployment Planning

- The CSTARS/ORSI Team is working on the draft Deployment Plan. This document is due to CSC management on December 17th, 2004.
- The Team is holding meetings with bureau representatives to plan deployment at each site.

Training

- The CSTARS ORSI Training Plan will be completed on January 28th, 2005.
- "Train the Trainer" CSTARS Phase II Training will occur in March 2005 at the CBS Support Center.

Training Information – High-Level Description of the CSTARS Phase II Effort

Purpose: The purpose of the CSTARS Phase II project (ORSI) is to design, develop, and deploy a standard interface between the Commerce Standard Acquisition and Reporting System (CSTARS) and the Department's Core Financial System (CFS). The ORSI project includes an interface for requisitions, obligations, and non-Central Contractor Registration (CCR) vendors. This project will have a major impact on existing Procurement and Finance business processes at the bureaus. These changes will include new processing methods, the elimination of some manual entry, and increased system conformity.

Development Efforts: The CSTARS ORSI deployment effort is comprised of three independent development efforts; CSTARS, TIBCO, and CFS. Each of these efforts are coordinated by the Office of Acquisitions Management (OAM) and the CBS Support Center (CSC). Each development effort is described in more detail below:

- **CFS:** The Core Financial System (CFS) is the Department's official financial software package and is used as the system of record for Department financial actions. CFS has been successfully implemented for thirteen Commerce bureaus and is centralized in three locations (Census, NIST, and NOAA).

The CSTARS Phase II development effort contains changes to a number of existing CFS screens that will enable the system to verify, post, and track data coming from CSTARS and into CFS. Once the ORSI is implemented, modifications to CSTARS documents (requisitions and obligations) will be initiated in CSTARS and interfaced into CFS.

- **CSTARS:** The Commerce Standard Acquisition and Reporting System (CSTARS) is a commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) software product used by the Department of Commerce's acquisition communities as the enterprise-wide standard acquisition and reporting system. CSTARS is currently being used at each of the Department's three Commerce Business System (CBS) bureaus (Census, NIST, and NOAA) as well as the Office of the Secretary (OS). Information from CSTARS is currently manually keyed into CFS so that it is properly recorded in the system of record.

The CSTARS Phase II development effort includes modifying existing CSTARS Procurement software (Comprizon.buy) to include and update data fields (e.g. Item Type, Matching, Dollar/Quantity). This effort also includes modifications to allow CSTARS to send and receive information from CFS through TIBCO,

The CSTARS Phase II development effort also includes the deployment of CSTARS Web Requisition software – Comprizon.Request. This software will provide requisitioners the ability to send online requisitions directly to procurement offices. This process will eliminate some manual processing that currently is used for requisitioning. The CSTARS Phase II effort includes a number of Commerce-specific modifications to Comprizon.Request.

- **TIBCO:** The Department has chosen TIBCO to provide real-time interfacing capabilities for the CSTARS-CFS integration effort. TIBCO will transform and transport transaction data between CSTARS and CFS in real-time. This process will result in increased efficiency as it will enable users to enter information once and eliminate re-keying that is currently occurring in the bureaus. It

will also increase the accuracy and integrity of the data in each system because the system will require documents to pass required data edits in both CSTARs and CFS. A message will be automatically sent to the user if data edits fail upon interface processing.

Data Flow: The chart on the following page shows how data flows between CSTARs, TIBCO, and CFS.

CSTARS Phase II Data Flow

